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Homeland Security Committee Bill Targets Counter-Terror Grants on Risk

Chairman Cox, Ranking Democrat Thompson to Brief Media

WASHINGTON (Monday, April 11, 2005) – House Homeland Security leaders will introduce legislation Tuesday to make risk the basis for spending taxpayer dollars on state and local homeland security.

A *60 Minutes* report broadcast Sunday showed several examples of how federal homeland security funding is being squandered, including:

- An entire bio-chemical decontamination unit left sitting in a warehouse for more than a year with no one trained to use it
- Expensive Segway scooters purchased to transport first responders
- Public speaking training for city sanitation workers

On Tuesday, Chairman Christopher Cox (R-CA), Ranking Member Bennie Thompson (D-MS), and a majority of the committee will introduce the “Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005.” The bill will refocus counter-terrorism grant funding on risk, and streamline the grant process to get money more quickly to the first responders who need it. The bill will also ensure that firefighters, police, and paramedics in every state in America have a minimum level of preparedness.

Chairman Cox and Ranking Member Thompson will brief the media at noon on Tuesday, April 12, 2005 in Room 2212, Rayburn House Office Building, to discuss the bill.

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